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clusively shows that the wealthy classes do not receive so large a proportion of the nation's income as is commonly thought.

University of Denver.

J. E. LE ROSSIGNOL.

State Socialism in New Zealand. By J. E. LE ROSSIGNOL and W. D. STEWART. (New York: T. Y. Crowell and Company. 1910. Pp. ix, 311.)

New Zealand is for the rest of the world a laboratory for social experimentation, where now a professor of economics from Denver and a barrister-at-law from Dunedin have gone about together counting up the cost in pounds, shillings and pence of state interference, of old age pensions, of land-holding reforms, of government railways, and of court-fixed wages. As Le Rossignol and Stewart point out, the New Zealanders themselves have gone far for their own benefit but too often have refused to go far enough to benefit greatly others who are watching them. Their legislation has had little studied theory about it; as they have seen the need or have been able to take advantage of the opportunity, they have put through one reform after another. In the early days great tracts of land fell into the hands of the few and in these later days the state is getting back this land slowly through compulsory purchase and graduated taxation. But there is no single-tax or land nationalization theory here, nothing more than a tardy realization that it is better for the state and safer for the party in power, that men should settle with their families upon the broad acres where the "fat man's" sheep have been wont to roam.

There has been little more of theory in the extension of the New Zealand state railways. The country was poor and needing development; its peculiar formation into two long narrow islands each with high mountain ranges made it unprofitable for private capital to invest in more than disconnected roads serving scattered communities. The state, with its larger daring and greater credit, was needed to carry out a comprehensive plan for building. The state has gone into the business of fire insurance and coal mining in much the same way, not from any preconceived notions of state socialism, but because combinations were raising prices and state competition was looked upon as an effective and popular method of control. The post office has grown in like manner, step by step, until now an American, born to private telephone extortion and denied a parcel's post, may wonder in New Zealand at

a post office department which is monopolizing post, telegraph, and telephone, operating parcel's post and savings banks and which is soon to install wireless telegraphy.

The cost of these services has often been high, as we follow Professor Le Rossignol's figures, and the public debt in New Zealand is enormous. Yet about 65 per cent of that large debt is made up of productive assets and the balance of 35 per cent, or \$125 per head of white population, is "in large portion due to public works which while not directly productive of revenue, have greatly furthered the development of the country." It has cost the New Zealanders much to govern themselves without control by the hand of efficient plutocracy. They believe that their freedom from such corrupting influences as private railways is worth all they have paid and all they yet must pay. And this the majority of thoughtful men and women in New Zealand believe even while admitting that the party in power has made open use of its control of public expenditures to secure to itself more votes and further continuance in office. There are patent dangers from such practices, especially in a small country carrying on its manifold governmental operations through a very large body of civil servants, but that government by a bureaucracy is to be looked for and feared in New Zealand, as say these critics, seems to misread curiously New Zealand and English character and tendencies.

In the three chapters on compulsory arbitration and strikes, while a clear and accurate account of industrial arbitration is given, the responsibility for past failures of arbitration and for its future success seems to be placed somewhat too heavily on the workers. They, indeed, have gained much from its operation, in that they have been saved from the necessity of stopping work while their claims were being adjusted; but as we are told, it is doubtful whether beyond this, compulsory arbitration has either shortened their hours, increased their pay, or otherwise improved their condition, more than would have economic forces working quite independently of all this socialistic legislation. Employers have been haled to court so often by their men and so often have lost, that they would now throw the responsibility for arbitration's "success or failure wholly upon the shoulders of the workers." But it may be assumed that when the now completely recast Act in turn is strained to the breaking point, it will be the employers who will again come forward anxious to repair it. For Conciliation Boards and Arbitration Court, often as they may

decide in favor of the workers, are giving no more in wages and time than strong unions could exact; even the "preference to unionists" sometimes granted by judicial decree, astonishing as it may seem in this country of the open shop, and unwelcome as it is to the New Zealand employer, with few exceptions could be enforced by the unions themselves in New Zealand. What these wages are we are shown in interesting tables comparing wages and commodity prices in Wellington, New Zealand and in Denver, Colorado. They point "to the conclusion that while the cost of living is somewhat less in Wellington than in Denver, the wages of labor are considerably higher in Denver and the Denver laborer is better off than his brother in Wellington, since there is no reason to think that employment is more regular in one place than in the other."

That in this far off, fertile little land the powerful have often taken advantage of the weak, that the shiftless have been glad to accept whatever favors a worldly-wise government has scattered, and that men and women there, after all, are very, very human, but make these experiments there carried out the more valuable to other lands less progressive. Those who have gone about New Zealand hob-nobbing with the trade union leaders and the rank and file of wage earners, who count that splendid man and socialist, Edward Tregear, Chief of the Labor Bureau, among their cherished guides and friends and who, in spite of what New Zealand has to show to them to-day, may still believe in socialism, will heartily welcome this latest account of state socialism in New Zealand, even though they will emphatically disagree with the final conclusions of these latest investigators. They will hardly accept the inference to be drawn from the statement that "labor legislation is a luxury that a rich country can afford." Nor will they share the fear that state socialism in New Zealand "could mean nothing else than government by a bureaucracy." And finally it is a matter upon which there is room for difference of opinion, whether or not "what the British Colonies need most, is not more socialistic legislation, but an alliance with the United States," against the coming Mongolian invasion.

PAUL KENNADAY.

The Evolution of Property from Savagery to Civilization. By PAUL LAFARGUE. (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr and Company. 1910. Pp. 160.)